



# LYNX CREEK / HASSAYAMPA RIVER WATERSHEDS

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • 75 HAWTHORNE STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105 • NOVEMBER 2003

## EPA WORK ON McCLEUR TAILINGS WILL PROTECT COMMUNITY

*Prescott, Arizona*

*The purpose of this newsletter is to advise the Prescott community of environmental cleanup work that will be taking place at an abandoned milling area within the Prescott National Forest. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with cooperation from the Forest Service and the State of Arizona, will remove and/or stabilize tailings and waste rock at the former McCleaur mill site. This site is located near the intersection of Senator Highway (Forest Route 52) and Walker Road (Forest Route 197). A community meeting will take place on Thursday, November 13, to discuss EPA's plans and answer questions from the community (see box below).*

### **Why is EPA doing this?**

Tailings and waste rock from the old McCleaur mill site are located in areas that are very accessible to people living nearby (particularly in Millsite Village and Mountain Pines Acres) or traveling through the area. These tailings are not only in a large pile, but are also in surface water and stream sediments that flow to the Hassayampa River. In addition, a drinking water well for the Millsite Village is located within 30 feet of the tailings. We are concerned about the exposure pathways between the tailings, people and the environment because these tailings contain high levels of heavy metals, including arsenic and lead. This is a potential health hazard to people coming in contact with the tailings or the water, or to people breathing dust from the tailings piles. For these reasons EPA, the Forest Service and the State of Arizona agree that actions should be taken to minimize human contact with the tailings.

### **How will the work be done?**

The main objective of this EPA removal action (a "removal" is a quick response to lessen potential impacts of a hazardous environmental situation) is to remove and/or contain the tailings at the McCleaur site. This will be done by removing the tailings and waste rock from the stream and either disposing of them offsite or capping them either in place or in a nearby staging area. Stabilization of the streambank may also occur to prevent adjacent tailings from entering. In instances where the cap is applied, the cap will consist of biosolids to prevent hazardous substances from moving or being accessible to people or wildlife. Biosolids are a natural way to effectively contain toxic materials. Biosolids come from waste material that has been composted to a consistency that makes application as a "cap" possible. It forms a protective cover that controls erosion and allows vegetation to grow. The McCleaur site will be revegetated with native plants consistent with the surrounding area.

## **COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Thursday, November 13, 2003**

**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Prescott Mile High Middle School - Cafeteria**

**300 S. Granite Street**

## How long will the removal take and how will the community be impacted?

EPA expects the removal at the McClellan site to begin in early 2004 and take about two weeks to complete. *The main impacts to the community will be noise from the equipment that will be brought into the area and delays on the Senator Highway.* Dust will be controlled by the spraying of water. There may be some odor from the initial application of the biosolids, but that should diminish quickly. Hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. EPA will make every effort to have this work affect residents as little as possible. Please note: workers may be dressed in protective clothing. This does NOT mean the situation is hazardous to people nearby. Site health and safety plans require workers to protect themselves because they are exposed to contaminants frequently and for extended periods of time. The public will NOT be at greater risk of exposure during these activities.

## For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the work that will take place at the McClellan site, please contact any of the staff listed below. To be added to the site mailing list, contact Vicki Rosen.

**Harry L. Allen** (SFD-9-2)  
On-scene Coordinator  
(415) 972-3063  
[allen.harryL@epa.gov](mailto:allen.harryL@epa.gov)

**Vicki Rosen** (SFD-3)  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
(415) 972-3244  
[rosen.vicki@epa.gov](mailto:rosen.vicki@epa.gov)

U.S. EPA  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
You may also telephone Harry or Vicki toll-free at **(800) 231-3075**. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

U.S. Forest Service contact:

**Michael Smith**  
Bradshaw Ranger District  
344 South Cortez St.  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
(928) 443-8014  
[michaelsmith@fs.fed.us](mailto:michaelsmith@fs.fed.us)

## How to Review and Comment on Workplan for McClellan Cleanup

Copies of the workplan for the McClellan cleanup may be reviewed in Prescott at the following locations:

### Prescott Public Library

215 E. Goodwin St.  
(928) 777-1500  
Mon., Fri., Sat. .... 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., Thurs. ... 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Bradshaw Ranger District

344 S. Cortez St.  
(928) 443-8000  
Mon. - Fri. .... 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Comments on the workplan may be provided to any of the people listed on the right. Please send all substantive comments to us by December 12, 2003. Thank you.